Rain water harvesting

2931. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Civil Society Organizations working in the Water Sector had agitation on World Water Day for clean water, quality water, better water supply and community rights over water; and

(b) whether Government are taking steps for rain water harvesting in view of the water scarcity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Government is aware of press reports to the effect that some people staged rally on World Water Day for clean water, better water supply etc.

(b) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate plans for augmenting water resources. However, the following steps have been taken by the Union Government to encourage rain water harvesting:-

(i) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)' under the Ministry of Water Resources has proposed a scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting during the remaining part of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend of ground water levels.

(iii) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

(iv) States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control.

(v) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in the respective States/Union Territories to allow

rebate in property tax to persons, who adopt roof top rain water harvesting in their premises.

(vi) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to around 1800 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(vii) Lanuching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwb.net) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(viii) Organisation of mass awareness program mes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(ix) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

(x) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory, similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

Regulation of ground water

2932. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated or propose to formulate a comprehensive policy for regulation and management of ground water in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?